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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7905**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 532

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 3, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 3, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Display of "In God We Trust" motto in public school.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Nugent

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill requires a public school corporation to display the motto of the United States, "In God We Trust", in a conspicuous place in the main entrance of each building of the school corporation. It requires the Attorney General to defend all suits challenging the constitutionality of IC 20-10.1-2-7.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (Revised) The bill requires the Attorney General to defend all suits challenging the constitutionality of displaying the In God We Trust national motto. The impact on the state is unknown and would depend if IC 20-10.1-2-7 is challenged constitutionally.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary:* The bill requires school corporations to display the motto of the United States in a conspicuous place in the main entrance of each building of the school corporation. The display must include the phrase: "In God We Trust, the National Motto of the United States of America, adopted by Congress, July 30, 1956." The display must be in English and any native language spoken by students. *Under the bill, school corporations may not use any public funds, if donations are available to pay the costs of displaying the motto.*

*Background:* There are currently 293 school districts in Indiana with approximately 1,900 public schools. The amount of school administration buildings is not known.

A per unit cost for an 11" X 14" poster displaying the motto is approximately \$3-\$6, depending on the number of posters ordered.

*Mississippi Initiative:* House Bill 51 was signed into law during the 2001 session of the Legislature. The bill provided that all schools in Mississippi would be required to display the motto of the United States. The American Family Association indicated that a professional printing firm printed the required copies of the motto of the United States for the 32,000 classrooms, auditoriums, and student dining areas in Mississippi schools free of cost to the schools.

*Wichita, Kansas:* By the end of 2002, all schools in Wichita, Kansas, will display at least one 11" X 14" motto of the United States poster. Funding for these posters will be provided by a local non-profit group.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Attorney General.

**Local Agencies Affected:** School corporations.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Department of Education, IDOE SAS and ORACLE data tables; [www.state.ms.us](http://www.state.ms.us); American Family Association; *The Wichita Eagle*, April 30, 2002; [www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2002/02/20/usat-posters.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2002/02/20/usat-posters.htm).

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